

To: Coursen, Robin[Coursen.Robin@epa.gov]
From: Schmidt, Andrew
Sent: Wed 8/26/2015 7:41:32 PM
Subject: FW: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Robin,

I realize that you came up with the 50K amount. Are we okay with the USGS oversight cost essentially being 50% of the BOR cost to create the report?

Furthermore, I was hoping for a bit more detailed cost breakdown and not simply an email chain. Am I crazy?

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew P. Schmidt, P.G.

Regional Hydrogeologist

US EPA Region 8, 8EPR-S

1595 Wynkoop St.

Denver, CO 80202

303.312.6283

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Paschke, Suzanne [mailto:spaschke@usgs.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Schmidt, Andrew; Coursen, Robin; Randall Jibson
Subject: Fwd: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Hi Andrew,

Here is the previous email chain that Robin forwarded regarding the BOR scope.

Randy, apologies, I misspelled your name in a previous email.

Thanks,
Suzanne

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Coursen, Robin <Coursen.Robin@epa.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 21, 2015 at 8:54 AM
Subject: RE: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine
To: "Luebke, Thomas" <tluebke@usbr.gov>, "Stalcup, Dana" <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>
Cc: "Nguyen, Duc" <nguyen.duc@epa.gov>, "Way, Steven" <way.steven@epa.gov>, Lowell Pimley <lpimley@usbr.gov>, Robert Quint <bquint@usbr.gov>, Dianne Parson <dparson@usbr.gov>, Michael Gobla <MGobla@usbr.gov>, Leslie Stone <lstone@usbr.gov>, "Paschke, Suzanne" <spaschke@usgs.gov>

Our contact at USGS is Suzanne Paschke.

From: Luebke, Thomas [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Stalcup, Dana
Cc: Nguyen, Duc; Way, Steven; Coursen, Robin; Lowell Pimley; Robert Quint; Dianne Parson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone
Subject: Re: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Dana - thanks much for the quick reply. We will process your work authorization for the Reclamation portion of the review right away.

We will work with our BLM and USGS points of contact to assemble a scope of work and cost estimate for each for this review, and provide it to you and the EPA Region 8 folks (we will try to use the EPA work authorization format or something very close to it so that it is relatively

straightforward to work with for the EPA Region 8 folks).

I will try to get this done tomorrow though our success is dependent on the availability of the BLM and USGS folks to discuss and concur.

Will keep you posted.

On Thu, Aug 20, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

Since we exchanged e-mails earlier today, I have had additional conversations with Region 8, and we are looking for vehicles to be able to task BLM and USGS directly. I think we will need help from you on the tasking you see for those agencies.

We are aware of the same vehicle being used for your work and some field work, and determined that it was more important to allow you to start quickly, and that if we searched for another vehicle or initiated one, it would like delay your study too much. So, yes, please proceed with executing this work assignment, with the understanding that it is on the same vehicle as other Gold King Mine support, and with the understanding that it is only covering the Bureau of Reclamation work on the independent study, not other agencies within or outside DOI.

If that makes sense to everyone, please proceed.

Separately, please let us know the best way to work on the SOW and funding estimate for the other agencies.

Thanks so much - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Luebke, Thomas [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Stalcup, Dana
Cc: Nguyen, Duc; Way, Steven; Coursen, Robin; Lowell Pimley; Robert Quint; Dianne Parson; Michael Gobla; Leslie Stone
Subject: Re: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Dana - please find attached a copy of the work authorization we received today from EPA Region 8.

Note that this only covers the work to be performed by Reclamation and does not include work to be performed by COE, BLM, and USGS. We continue to suggest that EPA develop a separate agreement with each of those bureaus and would be glad to put the point of contact for each in touch with EPA once you let us know who they should work with.

Given your earlier emails, we are concerned that this work is being funded under the same IAG that we have been using to provide technical assistance to EPA Region 8 for abandoned mine work in the past including recent work at the nearby Red and Bonita Mine. Your earlier emails suggest that you wanted separation of these previous activities from the Gold King Incident Review that you have asked us to perform.

I have copied Duc Nguyen, Steve Way, and Robin Coursen at EPA Region 8 on this email to give them a heads up that you may be contacting them.

Please let me know if after looking at this work authorization form, you are satisfied with the funding source on the attached authorization for Reclamation. We will not process the authorization on our end until we have heard from you.

Thanks.

On Thu, Aug 20, 2015 at 10:48 AM, Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

One additional potential source of confusion is that I think all these agencies are supporting Region 8's field work, in addition to whatever support they are providing on the independent study. That might help folks figure out the best path forward...especially keeping in mind the independence of the study, and that EPA HQ is planning to fund the study. Thanks - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

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From: Lowell Pimley [mailto:lpimley@usbr.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 12:46 PM

To: Luebke, Thomas

Cc: Stalcup, Dana; Elizabeth; Leslie Stone; Michael Gobla; Camille (Calimlim) Touton; Dan DuBray; Robert Quint

Subject: Re: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Tom: I believe you told me that EPA region 8 gave you this guidance on separate agreements with BLM and USGS.

If EPA ultimately goes the direction Dana proposes - do we have the mechanisms in place for us to pass funds from EPA through USBR to BLM & USGS?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 10:40 AM, Luebke, Thomas <tluebke@usbr.gov> wrote:

Dana - the Reclamation SOW and estimate cover only the Reclamation work.

The other entities will each work separately with Region 8 on their separate cost estimates (BLM, USGS, and COE) under separate IAGs.

Thanks.

On Thu, Aug 20, 2015 at 10:08 AM, Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for the update Tom.

One important note: My understanding (and request) is that the Bureau of Reclamation SOW and Cost Estimate cover everything except USACE. So, if there are additional needs for USGS and BLM, and perhaps other experts, they should be added to your estimate and SOW. Will that work?

We will be issuing separate tasking and funding to USACE. We will need your input on that, based on your discussions with USACE and their role in the peer review.

Thanks - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
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From: Thomas Luebke [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 12:05 PM

To: Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Pimley, Lowell; Elizabeth; Leslie Stone; Michael Goble; Camille
(Calimlim) Touton; Dan DuBray

Subject: Re: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Dana - the Reclamation TSC sow and estimate has not changed.

I believe that EPA had indicated that they would have a separate funding agreement for COE, USGS, and BLM.

Each will be providing tech assistance and peer review under the TSC scope of work.

We were planning to let the others on the team know who was assigned to develop their IAGs at Region 8 so that they can work out the details themselves

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 9:50 AM, Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Lowell and everyone.

I heard last night from our folks in Region 8 that they were initiating a work assignment form to get work started with your folks. They may have used the attached SOW and funding estimate as a starting point, and they noted that both the SOW and funding may change.

That being said, I was wondering if you have any changes to the SOW, and if you have an update on the funding estimate. As you might imagine, I am getting frequent inquiries.

Let me know if you have questions or additional/updated info. –
Thanks! - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
(OSRTI)

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From: Pimley, Lowell [<mailto:lpimley@usbr.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:49 PM

To: Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Luebke, Thomas; Elizabeth; Leslie Stone; Michael Gobla; Camille

(Calimlim) Touton; Dan DuBray

Subject: Re: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Dana: I don't have an answer on the status of discussions with Dr. Olsen, so I'm hoping Tom can get back to you shortly on that.

Also - the press release should have gone over to your press folks, but rather than speculate, I'll ask Dan DuBray (Reclamation Public Affairs chief) to get you whatever is the latest draft.

One caveat on Tom's cost estimate and scope of work. He and his team have pulled together the costs for their work (i.e. Reclamation's costs), but we are still working with other DOI agencies (possibly USGS and BLM) on what role they may play in this review so we've not yet incorporated what (if any) costs may be associated with their contributions to the review. We'll need a couple days to pull that part of the puzzle together so I'd ask that you hold off on having your folks in Region cut a task order on the Interagency Agreement. If your folks do want to get moving on that immediately, I ask that you make a note that the immediate task order is a preliminary one which may be adjusted in the next few days (with a supplemental task order).

Tom: I'm assuming the \$20K in your estimate for contracting is for Dr. Van Zyl (assuming he's available), but could you verify that?

On Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 2:17 PM, Stalcup, Dana
<Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

Thomas,

Thanks so much for sharing this. It looks good to me, and I will share up my management chain.

Presuming no concerns with this approach, my urgent questions are:

- Does this note imply that you have connected with Dr. Olsen, and that we can presume that the two agencies have agreed upon the scope/process for the two agencies?
- Presuming that is the case, I think we can proceed with the press release/statement. Please confirm. And if you can get a copy of the latest Bureau of Rec mark-up, that would be great. I know it is out there but I don't have it.

We have initiated the process for funding, and we will proceed [presuming my management supports] with amending an existing IA [I think] to get this tasking and funding set up.

Thanks again, please let me know you are okay as I suggest, and please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Luebke, Thomas [mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Stalcup, Dana
Cc: Elizabeth; Lowell Pimley; Leslie Stone; Michael Goble
Subject: Reclamation Scope of Work - Gold King Mine

Dana - Lowell Pimley asked that I provide you with our draft

scope of work for Reclamation's Engineering Review of the Gold King Abandoned Mine:

We currently envision our review will cover:

Description of the incident

Geologic setting

History of mining operations in and around Gold King

History of remediation activities in and around Gold King

Site conditions prior to incident

Remediation workplan/HASP/EAP

Activities leading up to incident

Site conditions following incident

Industry standards and practices for abandoned mine remediation

Lessons learned

The review report will be subjected to internal review at Reclamation and then released to Dr. Olsen at the Corps of Engineers. In addition, we hope to contract with Dr. Dirk Van Zyl,, a recognized expert in this field,as a second peer review (not clear whether we can make this happen within the 60 day time frame).

Reclamation preliminary estimate for performing this work is \$80,000 in labor \$10,000 for travel, and \$20,000 for contracting. EPA will need to develop a separate agreement with COE for the involvement of Dr. Olsen

We anticipate that our draft report will be ready for peer review before September 30.

Mike Gobla will be Reclamation's principal reviewer on this work. A short description of his background follows:

Mr. Gobla has over 35 years of experience in civil, mining, and environmental engineering. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1976 with a B.S. in Mining Engineering. In 1991 he earned an M.S. degree in Mining Engineering from New Mexico Tech. He is currently a registered professional engineer in the States of Colorado and Montana and he formerly also practiced professional engineering in New Jersey and New Mexico.

Mike is currently the manager of one of four geotechnical engineering groups at the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado. He oversees eleven geotechnical engineers in dam safety evaluation, dam design and modification projects, slope stability investigations, abandoned mine remediation, and waste site repository design.

Prior to joining the Federal Government he worked in the mining industry on mine design, permitting, operations, and closure and as a civil engineer in road and utility design. His industry experience includes coal, uranium, and precious metals mining operations in Colorado and Montana. As a mining engineer with Peabody Coal Company, Mike designed and permitted the Bluff Extension reclamation plan for the Big Sky Mine at Colstrip, Montana and developed mine plans and reclamation plans for the Seneca mine in Colorado.

As an engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Mines he researched innovative underground mine closure methods.

He has also served as technical consultant to the EPA,
USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management,
and State of South Dakota on mine closure projects.

We were unable to locate the email address for Dr. Olsen
and hope that you will be able to forward this information and
others at COE who may be involved.

Thanks.

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Suzanne S. Paschke, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Hydrologic Studies

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